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Informational Hearing

Health Care Industry Consolidation and its Impact on California's Health Care Prices

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. State Capitol, Room 4202

Biographies

Jaime King, John and Marylyn Mayo Chair in Health Law, University of Auckland, Faculty of Law; Executive Editor, Source on Healthcare Price and Competition

Jaime S. King is the John and Marylyn Mayo Chair in Health Law and Professor of Law at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Prior to joining the University of Auckland in July 2020, Professor King was the Bion M. Gregory Chair of Business Law and a Professor of Law at the University of California Hastings College of the Law. She served as the Associate Dean and Co-Director of the UCSF/UC Hastings Consortium on Science, Law and Health Policy, the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the UCSF/UC Hastings Master's Program in Health Law and Policy, and the Director of the J.D. Concentration on Law and Health Sciences. Professor King is the Co-Founder and Executive Editor of The Source on Healthcare Price and Competition, a multi-disciplinary web-based resource about healthcare price and competition. Professor King received the Hastings Foundation Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship in 2015 and the Best Antitrust and Mergers Article of 2017 at the American Antitrust Institute Annual Meeting with her co-author Erin Fuse Brown. Professor King has testified before Congressional committees on health insurance mergers and price transparency and is currently the President of the Board of the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics. She holds a Ph.D. in Health Policy from Harvard University, a J.D. from Emory University, and a B.A. from Dartmouth College.

Mary Watanabe, Acting Director, Department of Managed Health Care

Mary Watanabe is the Acting Director of the California Department of Managed Health Care, the state entity that oversees health plans that provide health care services to more than 26 million Californians. As Acting Director, Mary is responsible for protecting consumers' health care rights and ensuring a stable health care delivery system in accordance with federal and state rules. Mary joined the department in 2015 as the Deputy Director for Health Policy and Stakeholder Relations, where she was responsible for fostering proactive and effective relations between the DMHC and its stakeholders, while serving as primary advisor to the Director on critical issues and providing strategic planning and policy direction on emerging issues and industry trends. Mary holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento.

Renuka George, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Healthcare Rights and Access Section, California Department of Justice

Renuka George serves as the Senior Assistant Attorney General of the Healthcare Rights and Access section, which works on issues critical to the health and welfare of Californians, including hospital transactions, healthcare antitrust work, prescription drug pricing, healthcare consumer protection, and health privacy. Renuka first joined the Attorney General's Office as a deputy in the Health, Education & Welfare section, where she represented state agencies charged with administering essential health service programs, including Covered California, the Department of Health Care Services, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Managed Health Care. In 2017, Renuka was asked to serve in the Attorney General's Executive Office, working as his Legislative lead on healthcare issues. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Renuka worked as a litigation associate at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, where she handled intellectual property, antitrust and complex commercial matters for international technology companies. She also served as a Policy Advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom where she helped advance healthcare policy in the City and County of San Francisco. She received her J.D. from Cornell Law School and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University.